

THE **VVFC NEWS ALERT**
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OCTOBER 2004

INFLUENZA VACCINE

ADMINISTRATION AND SUPPLY

The Influenza vaccine for the 2004-05 season is supplied in two formulations; preservative-free and preservative-containing.



It is VVFC policy to administer preservative-free Influenza vaccine to eligible children 6 months to 35 months of age and preservative-containing Influenza vaccine to eligible children 36 months to 18 years of age. Please note, the preservative-free Influenza vaccine contains a trace amount of thimerosal from the manufacturing process.

Influenza vaccine orders were due by October 1st. VVFC will be shipping Influenza vaccine orders in partial shipments as vaccine becomes available from the manufacturer. Orders will be limited based on patient enrollment and vaccine availability; providers may not receive the entire amount requested.

VVFC cannot guarantee that providers who submit orders after the deadline will receive their requested orders. The highest priority will be given to those providers who submit their very first influenza order after the deadline. The next preference will be given to those providers who submit secondary orders on a first-come-first serve basis and who have not reached their maximum allowable order. You may continue to place Influenza vaccine orders until VVFC stock has been depleted.

If your facility's stock of preservative-free Influenza vaccine has been exhausted, and VVFC stock is not sufficient to fill additional preservative-free Influenza vaccine orders, you may administer preservative-containing Influenza vaccine to eligible children 6 months to 35 months of age.

VACCINE ORDERS

DOSE LIMITS AND FREQUENCY

Providers are encouraged to order vaccines quarterly, which means ordering enough vaccines to last your facility three months. Facilities may order up to 200 doses of each vaccine in a single order. If this quantity will not last your facility three months, please contact VVFC for an increased frequency authorization.



PREVNAR UPDATE

Since 2/2004, CDC has recommended that Prevnar be administered to healthy children on an abbreviated schedule to conserve supply. But effective 9/17/2004, the CDC recommends that providers resume administration of Prevnar according to the routine schedule. Production is now sufficient to allow for the resumption of the 4th dose of Prevnar to healthy children. The 3rd dose of Prevnar was resumed on 7/9/2004. Be sure to check Prevnar immunization history when patients come in for the Influenza vaccine!



THANKSGIVING SHIPPING

Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, **we will not be shipping vaccine on November 22nd.** Any order received between 4 PM November 11th and 4 PM November 24th will not be shipped until November 29th. Orders received after 4 PM, November 24th, will be shipped on December 6th. The winter shipping schedule will be in the December Backpage.



VVFC AWARDS Outstanding VVFC Compliance

Bayside Pediatrics, Virginia Beach
Beaumont Juv. Corr. Center, Beaumont Heights
Children and Adolescent Clinic, Hopewell
PICH - Briarfield Elementary School, Newport News
Natural Bridge Juv. Corr. Facility, Natural Bridge
Practice of Dr. Dau T. Le, Virginia Beach
Richmond Pediatric Associates, Inc., Mechanicsville
University of VA Medical Center, Charlottesville

Exceptional Immunization Rates

Children's Clinic, Rocky Mount
Northridge Pediatrics, Charlottesville
(Immunization rates exceed 90% using CASA software)

PERTUSSIS TESTING

Pertussis is on the rise both nationally and in Virginia. Increased awareness of the disease along with the wider availability of various laboratory tests has led to some confusion regarding which tests are most useful for its diagnosis. Enclosed is a summary of available tests, their sensitivities and specificities to help clarify the issue.

